

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 147: What if Santaphant got sick and Kiddoclaus had to deliver Christmas?](#)

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Transcription by Keffy

[Rising harp scales followed by the What If World theme song.]

Lyrics: What if kittens played the glockenspiel? And what if unicorns were real? What if you could fly or travel back in time, we welcome you to What If World. What If World. This is What If World.

[Gentle bell music.]

Mr. Eric: Hey there, folks, and welcome back to What If World, the show where your questions and ideas inspire off-the-cuff stories. I'm Mr. Eric, your host, and today is our holiday special so we're gonna give a few extra shout-outs and answer a few extra questions as my way of thanking you for listening.

Fred the Dog: I want to shout out Liam from Montclair, New Jersey, first.

Mr. Eric: Okay, Fred, go ahead.

Fred the Dog: Well, Liam loves listening to What If World when he's going to bed.

Mr. Eric: Thank you, Liam. That's great to hear.

Cthunkle: And I have a shout out for Clara.

Mr. Eric: Cthunkle! Wow, one of your rare shout outs.

Cthunkle: Clara loves drawing when she's not off playing Roblox and she will one day, most likely, take over the world.

Mr. Eric: Well, if you say so.

Cthunkle: Just don't forget your old pal, Cthunkle, when you do.

Mr. Eric: Okay. Thank you, Clara.

JF Kitty: I've got a meow-out for siblings Abigail and Bethany.

Mr. Eric: Oh, hey, J.F. Kat. Tell us about it.

JF Kitty: Abigail's ten years old and she's got a cat named Mittens. And Bethany, aka, Miss B, is seven years old, likes koalas, rainbows, and anything magical.

Mr. Eric: Well, thank you Abigail and Bethany. And I have one, final, personal shout out to give to Mrs. Darnell's entire 5th grade class who wrote me an email chock full of what if questions.

Mrs. Darnell's class, if you're listening, thanks for sharing your imagination.

But now we've got to get to our questions. And our first is from Ramona.

Ramona: Hi, I'm Ramona, and I'm six years old and I have a great question because it's getting close to Christmas. What if Santa got sick and Kiddoclaws had to deliver Christmas. I'm done. Thank you.

Mr. Eric: Whoa. I guess it's about time for a holiday story. And maybe we'll learn a bit more about how What If World celebrates Ifmas.

Finally, we've got a write-in question from a patron named Harrison. He asks what if J.F. Kat and Fred the Dog rode a flying megalodon over New What City?

Well, let's find out by getting straight to the story.

[Rising harp scale.]

'Twas the night before Ifmas and Santaphant had very nearly finished delivering gifts to everyone who celebrated the holiday throughout What If World. But as the giant, snowy white woolly mammoth reached the very last city, he started feeling a really, serious tummy ache.

Santaphant: Oh, ho...

Mr. Eric: Trumpeted Santaphant.

Kiddoclaws: What is it, Papa? Your trumpeting does not sound as joyous as it usually does when we reach New What City, the very last stop on Ifmas.

Mr. Eric: Kiddoclaws was worried about her father, but it was hard for her to see how he was. Oh, you might have forgotten that Kiddoclaws is actually a giant flying megalodon. Yes, she's hundreds of millions of years old, but Santaphant is timeless so she can still be his daughter. It's not a big thing.

Santaphant: Oh, hoo, Kiddoclaws, the Ifmas children left out too many peanuts and peanut butter cookies.

Kiddoclaws: To be fair, you didn't have to eat them all...

Santaphant: You try taking a bite out of a hundred million cookies and see how you feel. Whoa... why couldn't somebody just leave out a head of romaine lettuce.

Kiddoclaws: Okay, I understand that you are feeling rather crum crum in the tum tum, but we've got to finish out New What City.

Santaphant: Okay... [sad trumpeting]. Nope, nope. I'm tapping out. You've got to finish delivering the Ifmas gifts.

Kiddoclaws: But Papa, I'm Kiddoclaws, the giant claws at the end of my megalodon fins are only good for ripping up roofs so that you can drop off presents.

Santaphant: I don't know, just leave the presents in the town square and people will sort it out. [Groans]

Kiddoclaws: No, we have to follow the list. Only certain people get Ifmas gifts, otherwise it would be chaos.

Mr. Eric: And Santaphant folded himself up under a big flap of the megalodon's leathery hide.

Santaphant: I'll just rest here and you can pop the presents out of my trunk yourself.

Mr. Eric: But the first present she tried to pop out of his long, leathery, wooly mammoth trunk? [Glass breaking.]

Kiddoclaws: Oh, that did not go according to plan, hmm.

Mr. Eric: Just then, she heard a distant voice.

Fred the Dog: Hey, you, Kiddoclaws! What you doing up there? You should be giving me my presents.

Kiddoclaws: Oh, Fred, it's you! You must have known that I was in need and come as President of What If World to save Ifmas.

Fred the Dog: No, I... you're late with my presents.

JF Kitty: Where's that flying megalodon, I'm gonna give her a piece of my mind.

Mr. Eric: And J.F. Kat bounded through the snow to stand by Fred the Dog.

Fred the Dog: She's right up there. You can't see her? She's like bigger than half of these buildings.

JF Kitty: Where?

Fred the Dog: She's hovering right above us. Blocking out the stars and all the lights of the city.

JF Kitty: Oh. Oh, there. There. Yes, I see her. Kiddoclaws, uh, where's my Ifmas gift?

Mr. Eric: And Kiddoclaws held down a big, clawed fin so that Fred the Dog and J.F. Kat could climb up it and see where Santaphant was shivering and only half awake.

JF Kitty: If me and the Fur Force don't get our presents, we're going on strike.

Kiddoclaws: I'm sorry, but I cannot deliver the gifts with my giant megalodon clawed fins.

Fred the Dog: I thought megalodon fins weren't clawed.

Kiddoclaws: Well, I'm Kiddoclaws, please don't poke holes in my existence.

Fred the Dog: Okay, yeah, so, so fine. So... presents?

JF Kitty: Don't you see, Fred the Dog? It's up to us.

Kiddoclaws: Oh, thank you, so much.

JF Kitty: To reach into Santaphant's trunk and get our own presents.

Fred the Dog: Oh, that's a good idea. [Fred's tongue extending noise.]

Santaphant: Oh, this is weird. I don't like it.

Fred the Dog: Ooh, I got a stick for Ifmas.

JF Kitty: Oh, what did I get?

Fred the Dog: I don't know. Go get your own present.

Mr. Eric: And J.F. Kat reached in with his little soft paws.

Santaphant: Oh, this is weird but much more pleasant.

JF Kitty: I got a mug that says "#1 Former President." Great.

Santaphant: Well, that's not the whole present.

JF Kitty: I do really feel like knocking this off of this megalodon's back.

Mr. Eric: And J.F. Kat used his little kitty paw to gently push the mug off the side of the megalodon and [thudding and finally a crash].

JF Kitty: Oh, that was so satisfying.

Santaphant: Merry Ifmas [cries].

Fred the Dog: Oh, no, Santaphant.

Kiddoclaws: We're in real trouble, now.

JF Kitty: You are, maybe. We already got our presents. Merry Ifmas, smell you later.

Mr. Eric: But as the dog and cat went to climb off her fin... [Zoom!]

JF Kitty: Where are you going?

Fred the Dog: You didn't let us down first!

Kiddoclaws: Oh, I thought you two heroes would like to help me save Ifmas.

JF Kitty: Shanghaied into heroism. Story of my life.

Fred the Dog: Oh, you need help dropping off the gifts. That's okay, I'll just put my tongue back up Santaphant's trunk and get out all the presents...

Santaphant: [Trumpets] Ooh, please, not him. Have the kitty do it!

JF Kitty: Okay, I'll use my little cute fluffy paws to get the presents out gently, and then Fred can stretch out his tongue and drop them off in each apartment.

Kiddoclaws: Well, not each apartment. Only the people who celebrate Ifmas and who have used the spirit of If to understand their fellow people.

Fred the Dog: And, um, how many people have done that in New What City?

Kiddoclaws: Like, 15.

JF Kitty: That doesn't sound like many. Is that why we're flying over all these buildings without dropping off a single gift.

Kiddoclaws: Mm...yes.

Fred the Dog: Well, I don't think that's fair. If Ifmas is about understanding then shouldn't we try to understand all these people and give them all gifts?

Kiddoclaws: Listen, I'm just trying to get through the holidays, okay.

JF Kitty: Let's just find a gift for this one house. Wait, wait, I know these people. That's Benji's house. They celebrate Saint Panputer's Day.

Fred the Dog: You mean the day where pancakes turn into computers?

Mr. Eric: And they peeked through the window of Benji's apartment to see little Benji flipping one pancake after another. It would turn into a computer in mid-air and then the rest of his family would pluck it out of the sky and wrap it up.

Fred the Dog: But then they give the pancake computers away?

Kiddoclaws: Yes, but they don't celebrate Ifmas, so can we move on?

Fred the Dog: Oh, and right next door! That's Denyra's house! She celebrates Sparkwan, the day where all her fairy people give thanks to the sparkly butterflies that are real and have magic powers and give the fairies their magic powers.

JF Kitty: Surely such gratitude deserves an Ifmas gift?

Kiddoclaws: They're not celebrating our holiday so they don't get our gifts. Are you two going to help or not?

Mr. Eric: They flew over a skate park where Olive's family was celebrating ParkourKattus the day where kitties taught their parkour moves to anyone who wished to learn.

Fred the Dog: Those kitties are teaching other people. That's good.

Kiddoclaws: It isn't about whether the holiday is good or bad, it's about whether the holiday is Ifmas.

JF Kitty: And that family of leaves! That's Megan's family celebrating National Natural Day.

Mr. Eric: And Megan and her family of leaves whipped around the streets of New What City, picking up all the trash and litter along the way and

smooshing it into trash bins that then grew and became trees with little trash bins hanging off the limbs.

Alabaster Zero: Excuse me, I'm sorry. Megan, you flew me into a trash bin. Because I accidentally dropped that wrapper, but I don't actually want to be a tree.

Kiddoclaws: No, that's Alabaster Zero. We can give him an Ifmas gift because he was trying to be understanding of those who celebrate National Natural Day.

Mr. Eric: And J.F. Kat pulled the little cactus out of Santaphant's trunk and Fred stretched out his tongue to Alabaster, who was still stuck in a trash can hanging from a tree about 20 feet in the air.

Alabaster Zero: Tabby Tallulah's just gonna love this, could you help me get out of—you know, never mind, I'll take care of it.

JF Kitty: I sort of feel like we could have at least got him out of the tree.

Kiddoclaws: No no no no. We're just giving presents. We've got to stay on schedule.

Mr. Eric: They flew by Matt's family, who celebrated No Kissmas, where kids become poisonous and venomous so they can go a whole day without getting their cheeks pinched. And they flew by a swarm of witches and dragons celebrating the Magolda in the sky. The dragons in Charlie's family gave their gold to the witches, who in turn turned the dragons into gum because I guess that's something dragons like.

Fred the Dog: I really don't get that holiday.

Kiddoclaws: Maybe you should learn to appreciate it in the spirit of Ifmas.

JF Kitty: But we keep flying by all these people celebrating interesting holidays rather than actually getting to know them.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, that doesn't seem very Ifmas-y to me.

Mr. Eric: They dropped off a pair of extra large glittery wings to Stevie the Fleasel, who was fast asleep. And then they flew over Sloane's family celebrating Eelentines Day.

JF Kitty: Wow, look at that, all those eels are turning into electric cars and giving people free rides while getting to know them.

Kiddoclaws: Oh yes, their holiday is very much like Ifmas, but it's not exactly Ifmas.

Fred the Dog: But it's not exactly Ifmas. Wow, forget it. I'm done!

[Record scratch.]

Just let me down.

Kiddoclaws: But we've only got a few gifts left to deliver.

JF Kitty: Yeah, I think I'm all set. Sorry, Kiddoclaws. Sorry, Santaphant.

Mr. Eric: And the megalodon slowed her flying down and came back to the ground.

Kiddoclaws: It's not very Ifmas-y of you to refuse help to me.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, but you're not helping all these other people.

JF Kitty: It seems like most people in the world don't even celebrate Ifmas, so uh, I'm just gonna go over to these unicorn and find out about their holiday.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, I'm gonna try to find some people who need some things, not just the people who celebrate the same day as me.

Mr. Eric: And Fred and J.F. Kat climbed down from her fin.

JF Kitty: Hi, Unicorn. You and your family seem to be celebrating something out here in Whentral Park.

Ida: Oh, yes.

Mr. Eric: Said Ida the Unicorn.

Ida: We're celebrating Hop-on-a-Rock.

JF Kitty: Hop-on-a-Rock, that sounds lovely. May I join you or at least observe?

Ida: All are welcome to celebrate Hop-on-a-Rock. One need only find a rock.

JF Kitty: Okay, yes.

Ida: And go to the bathroom there instead of in the toilet.

[Record scratch.]

JF Kitty: Um. Excuse me?

Ida: It's an ancient unicorn tradition.

Mr. Eric: Said Ida.



JF Kitty: Well, this holiday is particularly strange, but I—

Ida: And where we go on the rocks, it turns into healthy candy that anyone can enjoy.

JF Kitty: And do the people know that what that...

Ida: If they celebrate Poop-on-a-Rock, they do.

Fred the Dog: Hey, J.F. Kat, I found some great candy in the forest.

JF Kitty: Uh... uh... uh... mm...

Fred the Dog: I was thinking I could give it away to people to spread joy and love and [eating]. It's really good stuff.

JF Kitty: Oh, boy.

Ida: Are you sure you don't want to celebrate with us?

Mr. Eric: Asked Ida the Unicorn.

JF Kitty: Yeah, at this point I'm starting to miss Saint Panputer's Day.

Mr. Eric: And Kiddoclaws hovered above Fred and J.F. Kat and all the people of New What City celebrating all their different days.

Kiddoclaws: Santaphant...

Santaphant: Oooh, yes?

Kiddoclaws: Are there enough gifts left in your trunk for everyone in New What City?

Santaphant: My trunk always has enough gifts.

Mr. Eric: And Kiddoclaws flew back down to Fred and J.F. Kat.

Kiddoclaws: Do you think you could help me one more time? I think we missed a few homes along the way.

Fred the Dog: You mean it? [Chewing]

JF Kitty: Oh, thank goodness.

Mr. Eric: And Fred and Jojo and Kiddoclaws flew around the rest of New What City giving presents to all the kids and the grown ups, to those who'd made great choices, and even those who had made big mistakes.

Alabaster Zero: Why are you giving me another gift after you talked about mistakes? I littered on accident. The wrapper just blew away from me.

Fred the Dog: Here you go, Alabaster. Another cactus.

Alabaster Zero: Couldn't you have gotten me, like, a ladder, or some food? I've been stuck in this tree for hours.

JF Kitty: I'm sorry, we're really behind schedule.

Fred the Dog: You can have one of these beautiful rocks I found in the forest. It's candy!

Alabaster Zero: Oh, thanks, Fred! Oh, yum, yum. Hey. That's pretty good candy.

Kiddoclaws: And that is how Fred, Jojo Fluffy Kat, and I, saved Ifmas.

JF Kitty: By giving unicorn plop to a detective?

Fred the Dog: Well, yeah, but also the other stuff.

Santaphant: I'm starting to feel better. Do you have any more of that unicandy?

Fred the Dog: Yum yum yum.

Santaphant: Yum yum yum.

JF Kitty: Oh, heck. I'll try some, too.

Mr. Eric: The end.

JF Kitty: Not bad!

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: All right, Ramona and Harrison, and Sloane and Olive and Megan and Matt and Ida, and Denyra and Charlie and Benji. I hope you all enjoyed your story, the Himalaya App, or wherever you listen.

I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, and all you kids at home who know there's no end of ways to celebrate this wonderful life that we live and all the people in it.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]